

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1913.

WM. L. BYHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sunbury-on-Thames,
Middlesex.

MAY 5th, 1914.

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1913.

GENTLEMEN—

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1913.

POPULATION.—The number of residents in the District varies so little from year to year that I estimate the population to be the same as the Census returned for 1911, viz., 4,607.

For the accommodation of this number of residents there would appear to be 1,100 dwelling houses, giving an average of about 5 persons to each house.

During the year a row of undesirable cottages—Numbers 1 to 7, Halliford Square, was demolished, as dangerous and injurious to health, and in their place 4 houses have been erected, which are a distinct improvement on the old and dilapidated property.

A considerable influx of labourers may be expected in the near future, in connection with the building of new Reservoirs in the immediate neighbourhood—and for many of these men accommodation will be found in the small houses now untenanted

BIRTH RATE.—The birth rate for the year is about the average—61 boys and 47 girls having been born, making a total of 108, and giving a rate of 23.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Of these 5 were illegitimate, and 2 were born outside the District.

This is a slight increase on last year, and approximates that for England and Wales during the same period, which was 23.9, but there has been a general decrease in this rate for the last 5 years.

DEATH RATE.—There were 60 deaths registered—31 males and 29 females—including 16 who died in Institutions outside the District. This gives a rate of 13, somewhat below the average, and it is of interest to compare it with England and Wales for the year, which is 13.7. More than 50% of these deaths were of persons of 65 years and upwards. I might mention that, of these, 6 were from cancer and 5 from tuberculosis, the two diseases which are receiving so much attention at the present time.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.—The deaths of 10 infants make this rate 92.6, and this is higher than last year, when it was 77.7, but not much above the average. That for England and Wales was 109. Of the 10 deaths which occurred 5 were of children under a week old, 2 due to premature birth, 2 to debility and 1 “found drowned,” which latter may, or may not, have been born in the District, as the parentage was untraced.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 15. This includes 10 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, which was first made notifiable on February 1st, 1913. Of these 8 were adults and 2 children.

Now that so much attention is paid to these cases, there is every prospect of fewer annual notifications, and as the importance of Sanitary precautions becomes more widely recognised by those afflicted, great advance should be made in the prevention of the disease. For the furtherance of this desirable object leaflets are distributed amongst those affected, giving valuable hints and directions. There were 2 cases of scarlet fever, both mild, and satisfactorily isolated in their own homes, and 2 of diphtheria, 1 mild and treated at home; the other, which might have been sent to the Joint Isolation Hospital, was, by error, sent to the Hampton Isolation Hospital.

The remaining case was one of polio-encephalitis, and was treated in a London General Hospital.

Added to the fact that there were only a few cases of measles and chicken-pox amongst school children, the small number of infectious cases notified is very satisfactory.

With the erection of an Isolation Hospital, the outlook for the future is brighter than it was at one time.

Before leaving the subject of Notifiable Diseases, I should like to draw attention to a very important fact, namely, the compulsory notification of ophthalmia of the newly-born. This is well-known to be a disease likely to cause blindness, and insufficient attention has, perhaps, been directed to it in the past. It is now incumbent upon midwives to report all such cases, and early scientific treatment must have a beneficial effect on those affected.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION, ETC.—For the benefit of those unversed in the physical characteristics and local sanitary conditions obtaining in the District, it is my duty to refer to these matters, although they have been dealt with in former reports.

The area of the District is 2,660 acres, a considerable portion of which is land under cultivation for Market Gardening and general Agricultural purposes. There are several Factories, employing a considerable number of hands, and the Metropolitan Water Board have Pumping Stations, reservoirs and filter beds, giving occupation to many residents. Many other residents are engaged in various professional and business occupations in London and elsewhere.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is not very extensive, and the Staines Union Infirmary, the Richmond Hospital and various London Hospitals minister to the wants of the necessitous.

There has been little or no house-building, but there is a considerable quantity of land available for such purpose. There is ample house accommodation for the working classes.

The water supply is from the Metropolitan Water Board Mains, and 95% of the houses are thus supplied with water of good quality and continuous service. In other cases well water can be easily obtained, which is analysed from time to time.

The river Thames forms the southern boundary of the District, and no case of pollution has been brought to my notice—an important point, as the Water Works derive some of their supply from this source.

The drainage of the District is efficiently conducted, and the sewage treated on the broad irrigation principle, on a farm situated at the western boundary. Complaints arise from time to time from householders, whose premises are not connected with the main drainage system, that, while paying a sewage rate, they are put to the expense of emptying their cesspools, and I would suggest that the matter might receive attention. House refuse is collected once a week in the more densely populated part, and fortnightly in the rural districts.

The sanitary inspection of the District is more or less continuous throughout the year, details of which are given in the appended tables.

There are no lodging houses or scheduled offensive trades in the neighbourhood.

The public elementary schools are sanitary, and are likely to receive attention with reference to increased accommodation in the near future. The children are inspected periodically by the School Medical Officers from the County Medical Officer's Department.

The cow-sheds and dairies, five in number, have been periodically inspected and found to be in a satisfactory state. The same remark applies to the bake-houses. There are no underground bake-houses.

I have alluded to the fact that there is now an Isolation Hospital, which was opened in May, and is worked in conjunction with neighbouring districts. Disinfection of infected premises is carried out by means of Formalin Vapour, and a McKenzie spray.

The Council have, for some years, arranged for the bacteriological examination of suspected cases of diphtheria. All reported cases of infectious disease are promptly visited, and arrangements made for the isolation of "contacts." The notification, by the local school authorities, to the Medical Officer of Health, of non-notifiable cases of infectious diseases, materially tends to prevent the spread of infection. It has not been considered necessary to adopt the Notification of Births' Act.

Much excellent work has been done by the Parish Nurse, and no Health Visitors have been appointed.

The Sanitary Authority will have to consider the question of treatment of cases of small-pox, as apart from other cases of infectious disease requiring isolation.

It is with much pleasure that I again thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support they invariably give me on all matters dealing with the general health and sanitary administration of the District. My thanks are also due to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. F. Coales, for his assistance, and no one is in a better position than myself to testify to the good work he continues to do.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. L. BYHAM.

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council.

SANITARY WORK, 1913.

The Inspector of Nuisances is **Mr. HAROLD F. COALES**, M.R.San.Inst., who is also Surveyor to the Council. He is assisted in the office by a youth aged 18 years.

*INSPECTIONS—

Number of Premises inspected on complaint (1)	10
Number of Premises inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases (2) ...	8
Number of Premises under periodical Inspection (3)	15
Houses inspected from house-to-house (H. and T.P. Act) (4)	200
Total number of Inspections and Re-inspections made (5)	1100

*N.B.—(3) Includes all classes of premises under periodical supervision, such as Cowsheds, Dairies, Slaughterhouses, Workshops and Workplaces, etc. (5) Includes all visits and re-visits made by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with 1—4.

ACTION TAKEN (other than under H. and T.P. Act)—

Cautionary or Intimation Notices given	45
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DWELLING HOUSES (and action under H. and T.P. Act, 1909)—

Number of houses found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health (Section 17)	7
Number of representations made by Medical Officer of Health (Sect. 17) ...	7
Number of Closing Orders made by L.A. (Section 17)	7
Number of houses demolished by order of L.A. (Sect. 17)	7

MOVABLE DWELLINGS, CARAVANS, TENTS, ETC.—

Number observed during the year	20
Number removed from District	20

BAKEHOUSES—

Number in District	5
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SLAUGHTERHOUSES—

Number on Register (1 slaughterhouse only; no Register kept)	2
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (half-yearly) ...	

COWSHEDS—

Number on Register	5
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (half-yearly, oftener if required)	14
Number of Milch Cows in District	90

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS—

Number on Register	5
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (half-yearly, oftener if required)	14

WATER SUPPLY AND WATER SERVICE—

Wells—	
New sunk	1
Cleansed, repaired, etc.	2
Closed as polluted	1
Percentage of Houses supplied from Public Water Service (where mains extend)	96
Cisterns—New provided	14
Cleansed, Repaired, Covered, etc.	14
Draw-Taps placed on Mains	20
Percentage of Houses supplied on Constant System (where mains extend)	96
Number of Samples obtained for analysis from Local Wells (rough test 3, analyst 1)	4

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE OF EXISTING BUILDINGS—

Water Closets—	
Number substituted for Dry Receptacles	4
Repaired, supplied with water, or otherwise improved	8
Percentage of Houses provided with Water Closets (where sewers extend)	96
Drains—	
Examined, Tested, Exposed, etc.	13
Unstopped, Repaired, Trapped, etc.	8
Waste Pipes, Rain Water Pipes Disconnected, Repaired, etc.	4
New Soil Pipes or Ventilating Shafts fixed	9
Disconnecting Traps or Chambers inserted	6
Cesspools—	
Rendered Impervious, Emptied, Cleansed, etc.	2
Abolished, and Drain connected to Sewer	5
Percentage of Houses draining into Sewers (where sewers extend)	96

DISINFECTION—

Rooms Disinfected—Ordinary infectious diseases 4, Phthisis 4	8
Rooms Stripped and Cleansed	8

DUST—

New Bins provided	26
How frequently is dust removed from each house?	† Weekly
Number of Complaints of Non-Removal received	6
Method of Disposal	Tipping

SUNDRY NUISANCES ABATED—

Overcrowding	1
Smoke	2
Accumulation of Refuse	5
Foul Ditches, Ponds, etc., and Stagnant Water	2
Foul Pigs and other Animals	1
Dampness	10
Yards repaved or repaired	4
Other nuisances	1

† Fortnightly from Halliford and Charlton.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and
Previous Years.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncor- rected Number	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- reside'ts registered in the District.	of resi- dents not register- ed in the District	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	4730	—	109	23·0	53	11·2	—	11	7	64·2	64	13·5
1909	4730	—	118	24·9	48	10·1	—	8	9	76·2	56	11·8
1910	4730	—	123	26·6	55	11·6	—	6	11	89·4	61	12·8
1911	4607	—	102	22·1	60	13·0	1	19	17	116·6	78	16·9
1912	4607	88	90	19·5	48	10·4	—	7	7	77·7	55	11·9
1913	4607	106	108	23·4	44	9·5	—	16	10	92·6	60	13·0

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water) 2660

Total Population at all ages	4607	} At Census of 1911.
Number of Inhabited Houses	938	
Average number of Persons per house	5	

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65	65 and upwards	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Poliamyelitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	—	—	2	—	7	1	—	2
Totals	15	—	1	6	—	7	1	—	4

Isolation Hospital—Sunbury, Feltham and Staines Joint Isolation Hospital.

TABLE III.
Causes of, and ages at death during the Year 1913.
SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.								
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
Measles	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	5	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease..	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1
Organic Heart Diseases ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Bronchitis	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	4	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Other defined diseases ..	14	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	11
All causes	60	10	1	—	2	1	6	8	32

TABLE IV.

Infant Mortality, 1913.—Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under One Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under One Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	{	Certified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis Disease	..			—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Convulsions			1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Diarrhoea			—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Enteritis			—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Premature Birth			2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus				1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Other Causes			1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
				5	1	1	—	7	1	1	1	—	10

Nett Births in the year $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Legitimate } 103 \\ \text{Illegitimate } 5 \end{array} \right.$

<p>Nett Deaths in the year of</p>	<p>{</p>	Legitimate Infants	9
		Illegitimate Infants	1